

CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)
FLOOR STATEMENT ON ESA RULE
September 29, 2005

Mr. Chairman:

I rise in support of the rule and in strong opposition to the bill, H.R. 3824. I want to thank the Rules Committee for making the bipartisan substitute in order.

But frankly, we shouldn't be having this debate today. This bill is moving forward with unseemly haste. The current version of the bill was not available until Monday afternoon. Everyone concerned with endangered species, both inside and outside of government, has been scrambling to understand what's in H.R. 3824. There has not been enough time for Members to fully digest the bill, and there certainly has not been enough time to work out any differences. I think that's a shame.

There's no reason for this rush except to stifle understanding and discussion. The other body is not exactly about to rush this measure to the floor. We should not be dealing with the most fundamental rewrite of an environmental statute in 15 years in this manner.

But at least the Rules Committee is enabling us to fully air the issues today. And Members will be offered a clear choice, thanks to the substitute that is being offered by Mr. Miller, me, Mr. Dingell, Mr. Gilchrest, Mr. Dicks, Mr. Saxton, Ms. Tauscher, Mr. Kirk, Ms. Matsui, Mr. Johnson of Illinois and Mr. Bass.

If you want to reform the Endangered Species Act without weakening it, if you want to reform the Endangered Species Act without creating new entitlements that will burden the taxpayer, if you want to reform the Endangered Species Act without increasing litigation, then you should support the Bipartisan Substitute.

Thank you.